

Hermitage Second Division Army Headquarters, December 19, 1808, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JACKSON'S DIVISION ORDERS.

Hermitage, December 19, 1808

Having seen in the publick papers, as early as the first day of November last, a requisition from the President of the united States, through the Secratary of the department of War on the respective States for their quotas of militia under the act of Congress passed on the 30th. day of March 1808 entitled 'an act authorising a Detachment of the militia of the united States etc., etc., requiring the governor of each State without delay, to take proper measures to perfect the organisation of their respective quotas required into companies, batalions regiments, Brigades and Divisions completely equipped with arms and accoutrements fit for service including blanketts and knapsacks, and to hold them in readiness to march at a minutes warning In the above alluded to orders it also states that if any corps of volunteers who previous to the orders for taking the field may tender their services to the commander in chief of the state conformably to the second section of the above aluded to act they will be accepted as part of the detachment, and also any company or companies of volunteers either artillery, cavelry or infantry who will associate and offer their services will be accepted as part of the quota of the militia required by the President of the united States.

Having waited with anxious expectation for many weeks the orders of the commander in chief of this state, requiring of me without delay to cause to be carried into effect the orders of the Secratary of the Department of War, and not as yet having recd any but viewing it as my duty from the delicate situation of our common country with the great Beligerent

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powers of urope, to have the Division under my command placed in the best Possible state, of readiness to meet the wishes of the President of the united States as soon as his orders shall be officially made known to me. You are therefore requested without delay to place your Brigades in the Best Possible state, to perfect the quota, that may be required from you as soon as you receive orders for that purpose, you will not fail in appealing to the patriotism of the citizens that compose your Brigade that the full quota required, may be made up by voluntary enlistment, from the military ardor displayed on a former occasion, I rest confident, that it still exists, that it is not abated, but has increased and will still increase, with the dangers that threaten our country—and when their is a call to arms their will be but one voice, defend the liberties and independence of our country or die nobly in the last ditch.